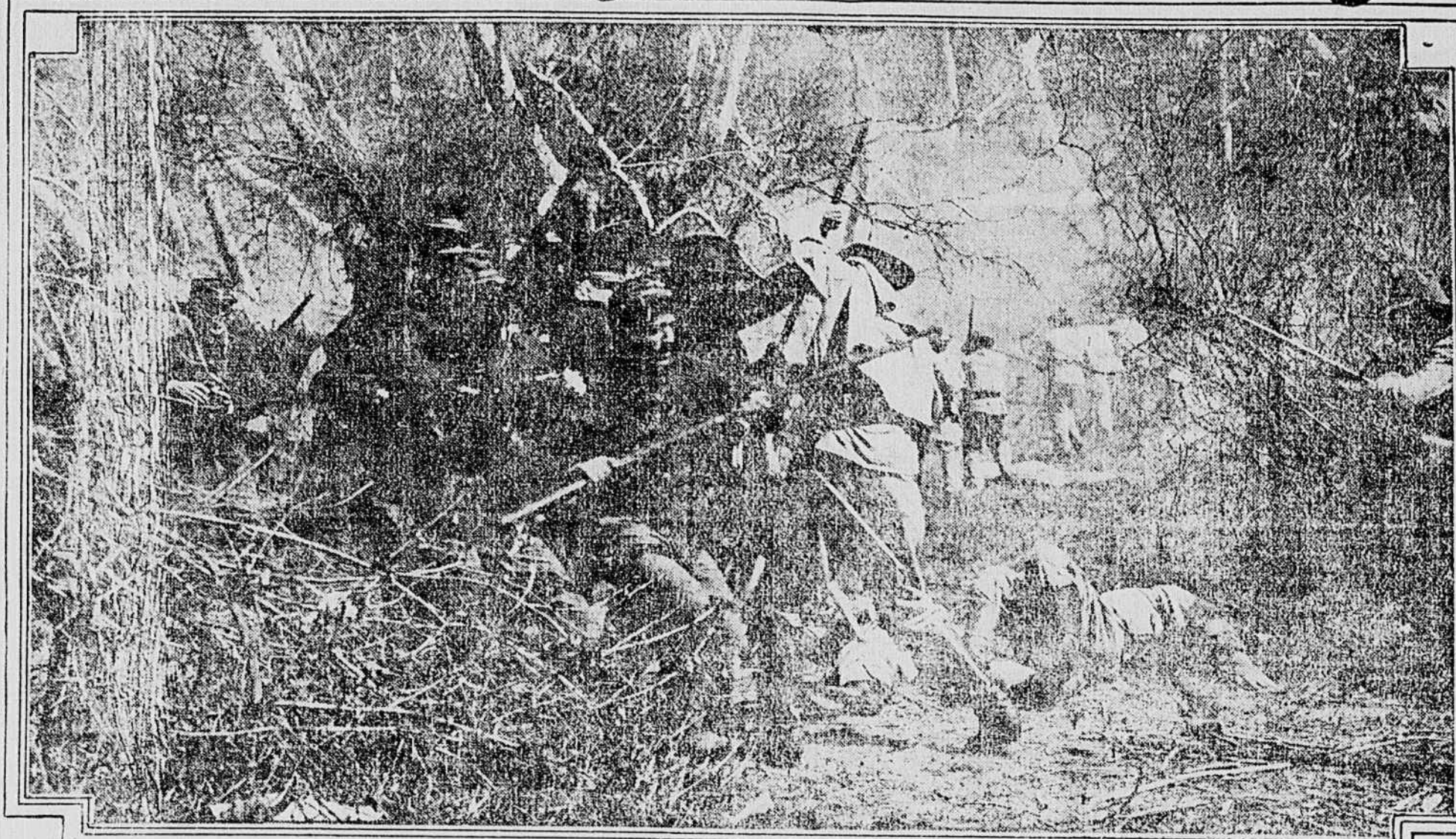


# How the Moving Pictures are Making the Past Live Again.



"At Death Grips."

An Extraordinarily Realistic Moving Picture, Showing a Part of the Battle of the Wilderness on the Very Spot, in Just the Way, No Doubt, Such a Fight Occurred 50 Years Ago, in the Fall of '64. Produced by the Universal Film Manufacturing Co.

WHAT educators regard as the most valuable post graduate course in history ever presented is being offered to the public night after night in the form of moving pictures.

Most of the big "movie" producing concerns have staged a number of great historical events, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to make them accurate and realistic, and their efforts have been most gratifyingly rewarded by the enthusiasm which the films have aroused.

As an adjunct to the ordinary school or college course in history, these films are, of course, of the utmost value. Anyone who has ever seen one of these films will readily agree that the impression they leave is far more vivid and lasting than that derived from any amount of historical reading.

But their principal value lies in the fact that they revive for the man of business the rapidly fading impressions of his school days. The patriotic inspiration to be derived from a perusal of history is far more effectively awakened by these realistic films, and it must be a very unimaginative person indeed who can look on at the reproduction of these stirring incidents of the past without being thrilled.

Take, for instance, the film entitled "Wolfe, or the Conquest of Quebec," one of the popular films produced by the Kalem Company.

This film gives an absolutely authentic account of the campaign which changed the destiny of the North American continent.

How thoroughly these historical films are worked out is well exemplified in this case.

From an educational standpoint, this feature is of tremendous value, since it visualizes the incidents taught to the children in our schools without losing any of the accuracy of the text books.

The departure of Wolfe from England after he received his commission from Pitt; the strategem by which the French pilots were lured aboard his flagship and compelled to bring the English fleet up the St. Lawrence to Quebec; the terrible bombardment of that city by the fleet; the enmity which existed between Vaudreuil, the corrupt governor, and Montcalm, the gallant soldier; the midnight climb up the narrow path by the Highlanders—these are some of the incidents which are shown.

An outlay of over \$70,000 was required to stage the various scenes upon authentic locations, employ and feed the army of men who repre-

sented the contending forces, etc. The productions required three months to complete.

A fleet of twelve ships was used to represent the English vessels, and a feature of special interest is the fact that Wolfe's flagship shown in the motion picture production is an exact counterpart of the original vessel. Before this was made possible, it was necessary to pore over ancient archives for the details of the old flagship. By a stroke of good fortune it was discovered that the Canadian government possessed a ship closely resembling Wolfe's flagship. Permission was secured to use the vessel, which was then altered to resemble the original to a T.

For the first time in history the Canadian Government granted people of another nation permission to man the old fortifications of the Citadel. It is here that the French troops are seen responding to the English bombardment.

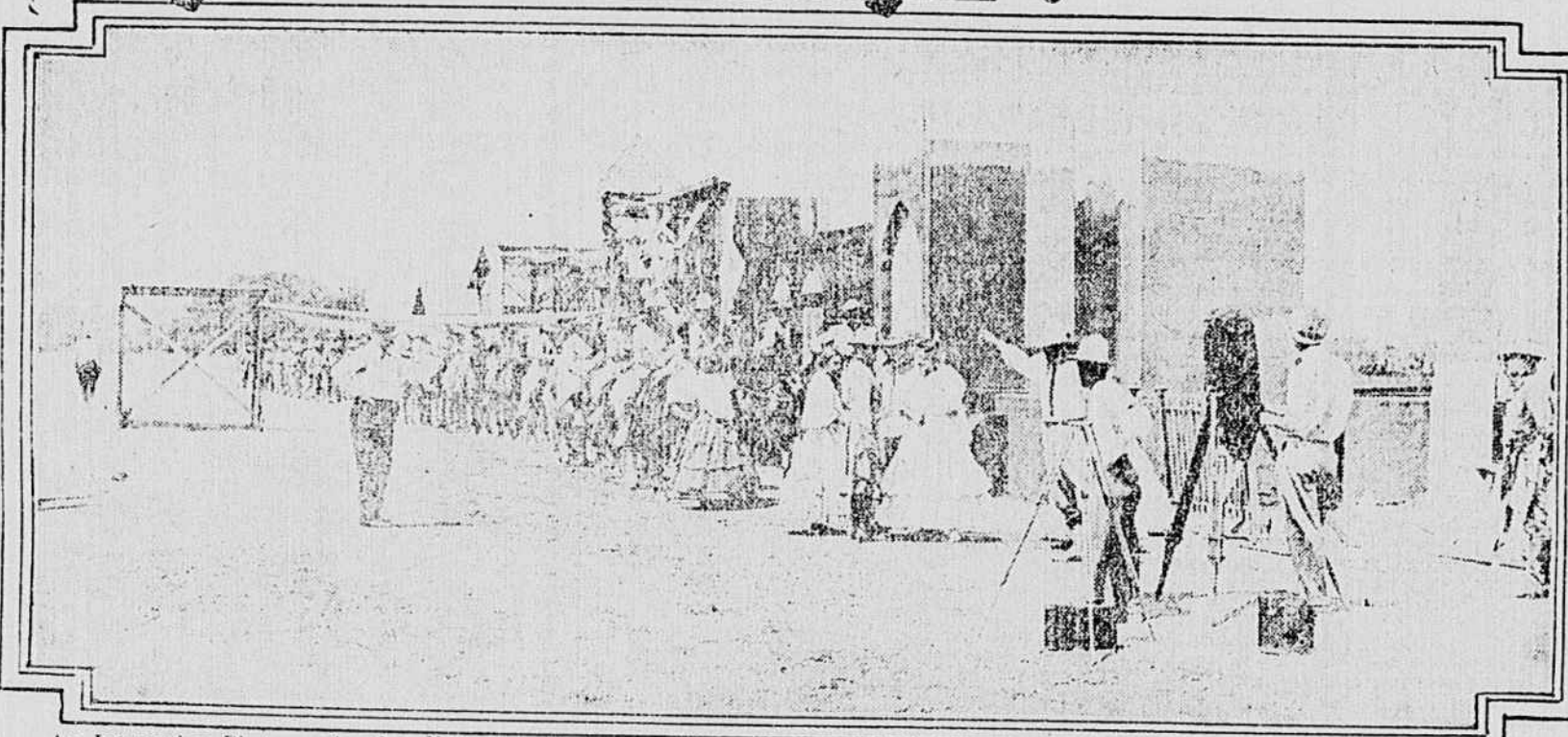
A temporary city was erected on the Island of Orleans, a few miles below Quebec, and it was here that the six hundred and some odd men who represented the French and English armies were quartered and sheltered. Incidentally, on the Island of Orleans was staged the "Battle on the Plains of Abraham." This was found necessary because of the fact that the scene of the original battle is now lined with modern structures. The spot used, however, corresponds almost exactly to the authentic scene of the struggle.

Another instance which goes to show the extent to which the "movie" companies go to secure realism is the fact that a tribe of Chingunawak Indians, the direct descendants of the red men, who were of such immense aid to the French, were employed to show the deeds of their forefathers.

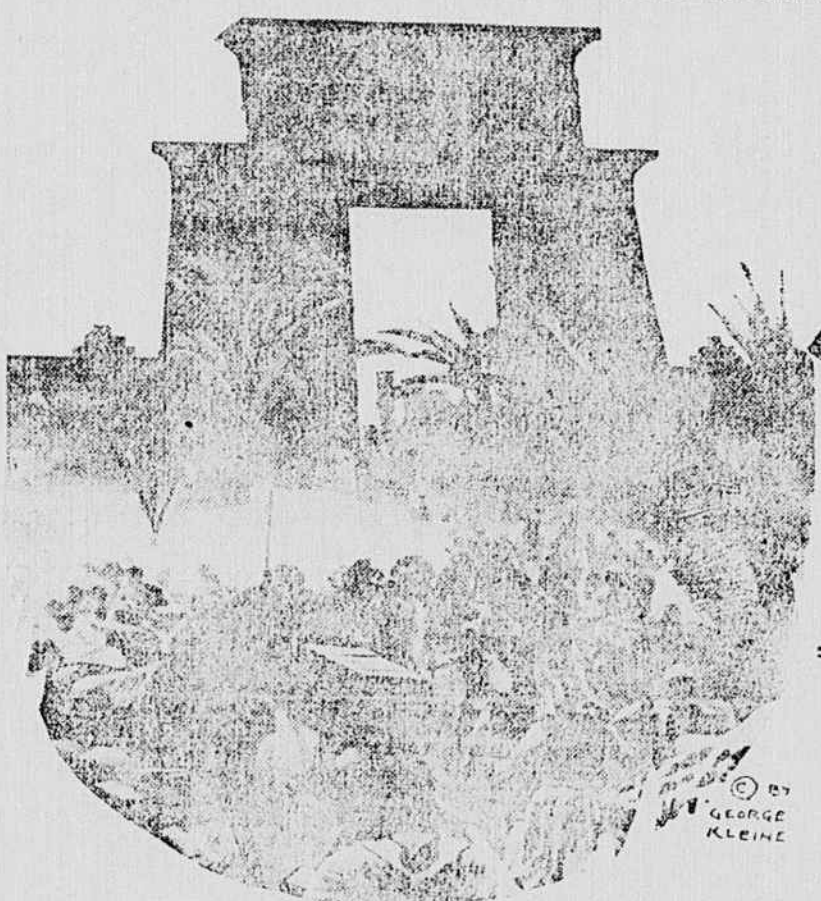
Realizing the importance of the production, the Canadian Government did all it could to make the picture a success. An old part of Quebec was used to show the effects of the bombardment by the English, and permission was given to destroy several old houses. These are seen being struck by shells and set afire. The result is one of the most realistic scenes ever staged.

Where text books tell the school children that the British troops landed at Wolfe's Cove shortly after their vessel cast anchor in the St. Lawrence, this production shows the actual landing. The headquarters of Montcalm, the French commander, still stands, and once more assumes importance as the headquarters for the mimic Montcalm. The Chateau Mars, used by Wolfe as his headquarters, was used by the Kalem performer, who portrayed that heroic role.

One of the spectacular scenes shows the attempt of the French to destroy the English fleet by means of fire-



An Interesting Photograph of a Universal Moving Picture Company, Its Scenery, About to Rehearse a Historic Incident of the Civil War.



The Sack of Alexandria by the Romans. Hundreds of Actors Used and a Whole City Built to Restore the Past of Egypt in the Photoplay, "Antony and Cleopatra."

boats. According to history, this attempt cost the lives of several of the French sailors and all for naught. This is cited as another instance of the pains taken to make this picture of the fall of Quebec so vivid and true to facts as to turn back the pages of time and present the struggle, with all its wealth of detail, to the people of the twentieth century.

Some of the companies are fortunate in possessing actors whose features very much resemble those of

the historical characters they are engaged to represent.

This is notably so in the case of the numerous films based on Lincoln's life which the Vitagraph Company has produced, in which the part of the hero, Abraham Lincoln, is played by Ralph Ince. Because of his striking resemblance to the martyred President, Mr. Ince plays this part without any make-up at all. These Lincoln films have proven extremely popular, a result which is

Copyright, 1914, by the Star Company. Great Britain Rights Reserved.

## The Triumphs of Realism Accomplished by the Films That Reconstruct Historic Episodes for Modern Eyes



© BY VITAPHON CO. OF AMERICA

Ralph Ince, of the Vitagraph Company, as Abraham Lincoln. An Example of the Attention to Detail in Films Dealing with Historic Subjects.

largely due to the fidelity to detail which the company has always exacted in staging and executing it.

How the Romans sacked Alexandria is vividly portrayed in George Kleine's film, entitled "Antony and Cleopatra." It is safe to say that nothing in history or drama concerning this stirring event arouses one's imagination to such an extent, or leaves such a lasting impression as this splendidly executed film.

The events of our own Civil War are well represented in these historical films. One of them, entitled "In the Fall of '64," produced by the Universal Film Company, may perhaps be singled out for special mention on account of the great pains that were taken to make it realistic.

The play in question was staged on the actual battle ground, and the company was greatly reinforced to portray the number of soldiers who participated in the actual conflict reproduced. One of the pictures on these pages, showing a hand-to-hand struggle between Union soldiers and Confederates, gives a fair idea of the manner in which this incident has been worked out.

Another picture on this page shows a moving picture company rehearsing for one of the great historical dramas and gives some idea of the number of players required to produce films of this character.

Arrangements are being made by school principals throughout the country to make moving pictures of this nature a part of the general school course, but perhaps their principal value at the present time lies in the fact that they recall to the adult incidents which thrilled him in his school days, but his memory of which has been rapidly growing more dim.



The Landing of Wolfe Near Quebec. A Kalem Film That Depicts with Historic Exactness, and on the Actual Spot, a Detail of the Taking of Quebec by the English.

## A New Twice-the-Size Corn

THE Government Plant Bureau has obtained surprising success in growing corn with bigger kernels. By crossing different varieties of maize, kernels of greatly increased size have been obtained.

But recently the bureau has secured from Bolivia a hitherto unknown kind of corn which might well hail from Gulliver's land of Brobdingnag. Its kernels are fully twice the size of the largest produced in the United States, and its snow-white color and fine flavor are said to render it superior to our best American corn.

Horace G. Knowles, our Minister to Bolivia, got hold of this wonderful corn and sent it to the Plant Bureau. He says:

"A very important advantage that it has over our American corn is that it produces on the same number and length of ears from 10 to 30 per cent more corn. Thus its yield would be

about one-quarter more per acre than the average American variety. If it is possible successfully to introduce this kind of corn in the United States it will have an enormous effect upon the total corn production of our country.

"Another great advantage it has is that it thrives in a climate similar to that of our Northern States; and possibly it can be grown in sections of our country where the Summers are too short for the American varieties. Another feature of this corn is its very fine texture. I believe it would grind as fine as sweet flour. As corn flour it would be far superior to the ordinary corn meal, and for many uses it would be equal to wheat flour."

In the meantime the Plant Bureau has succeeded in reducing the blueberry to cultivation, and, by growing the plants from seed obtained from selected wild varieties, it has obtained

blueberries nearly seven-eighths of an inch in diameter. This work has been done in the greenhouse, but it will be continued out of doors. Crosses between selected varieties have been made, and as a result many thousands of promising hybrids are now growing in pots. The plants are brought into commercial bearing in five years from the seed; but a method of propagation newly devised, and called "tuberling," produces plants eighteen inches to three feet high at the age of eighteen months.

From Hawaii has been obtained a new kind of raspberry—the largest raspberry known, being over one inch in diameter. It is called the "acala," and grows on a shrub twelve to fifteen feet in height.

A curious tropical plant recently introduced, by the way, is the "canbambli," whose fruits have an odor that causes one to sneeze.